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Association of
Former
Intelligence
Officers

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10 August 1978

The Honorable Griffin Bell
Attorney General
The Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Out of the ashes of the defunct Counter Spy Magazine another periodical has risen with the same avowed purpose of destroying the intelligence capability of this nation. This new publication is entitled Covert Action Information Bulletin and its first issue was distributed in July 1978. A copy of this issue is enclosed. Heading the list of supporters and contributors is Philip Agee, the first and only defector from the ranks of the Central Intelligence Agency known to have enlisted in the cause of international communism. He is thus a traitor.

The backers say in this issue, "We are confident that there will be sufficient subscribers to make this publication a permanent weapon in the fight against the CIA, the FBI, military intelligence...." They then continue: "we will never stop exposing CIA personnel and operations whenever and wherever we find them." They proclaim a regular feature, "Naming Names", in which "we will continue to expose high-ranking CIA officials". They proceed to identify, in full detail, the CIA Chief of Station in Jamaica.

The members of this Association are deeply concerned with this group's disregard for law. The effectiveness of U.S. intelligence can be seriously damaged when U.S. intelligence officers under cover are identified; and there is a clear and present danger of bodily harm and perhaps death to the officers so identified. Moreover, anxiety and fear -- beyond measure -- are placed on the wives and families of all such officers serving in far-flung areas of the world.

In our view, there is reason to believe that crimes have been committed and will continue to be committed by the group sponsoring Covert Action in pursuit of its objectives. Is there not incitement to violation of law in the calls for assistance in the pages of this publication? We urge you, as the nation's top law enforcement officer, to investigate and take appropriate action to protect U.S. intelligence and to safeguard the lives of our dedicated intelligence officers. We consider this a serious and urgent problem and we call upon you to

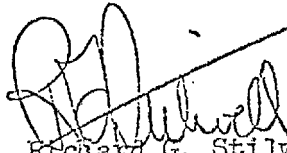
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review this matter most carefully.

While fully conscious of 1st Amendment constraints, perhaps carefully drawn civil actions could be filed in the courts to prevent damage and danger. Surely, under our laws there must be a way for the U.S. Government to protect itself from these assaults on the intelligence community and to prevent these threats to the safety of our officers and their families.

I would appreciate an expression of your views that I may transmit to our membership.

Sincerely yours,



Richard G. Stilwell
General USA (Ret.)
President, AFIO

cc: Senator Bayh
Congressman Boland

RGS:sgb